

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Citizens look to the media for unbiased information---especailly during an election year. Airing an anti-Kerry program WITHOUT airing a pro-Kerry program does not give my fellow citizens the information we need to make a voting decision. Such slanted programming only serves to further the interests of the Republican party. If this action is allowed, I would only expect to see more money changing hands in an already tainted political environment.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.